

Blue Devil Report

Athletic Hall of Fame inducts five



Peterson



Espe-Walsh



Lyons



Beaupre



Zuerlein

Four athletes and one coach were inducted into the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame. Tim Peterson, a quarterback for the football team in the late 1980s, Michelle Espe-Walsh, a setter for the women's volleyball team in the mid-1980s, Bill Lyons, a two-time all-conference men's basketball player in the early 1970s, Mike Beaupre, a men's gymnastics national champion in the early 1980s, and John Zuerlein, who started the men's gymnastics program in the early 1960s and finished his coaching career as the women's gymnastics coach, were inducted into the Hall of Fame, Saturday, Oct. 28, 2000.

Tim Peterson

Tim Peterson set the standard for all UW-Stout quarterbacks to follow. Peterson led the Blue Devil football team from 1986-89. After latching onto the starting role, Peterson began to rack up numbers that eventually would set 16 school records.

With Peterson at the command of a high powered offense, the Blue Devils led the NCAA Division III in passing in 1987. Peterson finished his career with 8,881 passing yards and 9,703 yards in total offense, both still school records that will be hard pressed to be broken.

After leaving UW-Stout, Peterson played with the Orlando Thunder of the short-lived World League of American Football, and had tryouts with the Minnesota Vikings and in the Canadian Football League. Upon completion of his playing career in Europe, Peterson turned to coaching with the Swedish national team, then returned to Minnesota as an assistant coach at Hutchinson High School.

Peterson currently resides in Hutchinson, Minn., where he is employed as a process engineer for Hutchinson Technology.

Michelle Espe-Walsh

Mish Espe was instrumental in the advancement of the Blue Devil women's volleyball program. As the team's setter from 1984-87, Espe set the standard for volleyball's quarterback position.

A team captain her final three seasons, Espe was an honorable mention all-conference choice as a junior, a first team pick as a senior, and the team's most valuable player as a junior and senior.

Known for her pinpoint accuracy with the set, Espe graduated from the Blue Devil program with the most career assists. She currently ranks third on the all-time UW-Stout assists list.

Following her UW-Stout playing career, Espe was an assistant coach for the Blue Devils for one season, then continued to play in a number of amateur leagues and tournaments around the country.

Espe currently resides in Elko, Minn., with her husband, Jamie Walsh, a former UW-Stout football player, and one child. Espe works for Telex Communications as an accounting supervisor.

Bill Lyons

Not only did Bill Lyons give the Blue Devils a scoring punch, he also provided the UW-Stout basketball team with leadership both on and off the court during his UW-Stout career from 1970-74.

"One of the best team leaders ever to come out of the program," said longtime UW-Stout coach Dwain Mintz.

And Lyons' leadership was a big part in the Blue Devils' success. During his career, the Blue Devils posted a 67-30 overall record.

Lyons was a two-time all-conference pick and was an NAIA District 14 choice in 1973-74 when he scored 563 points for a 21.6 points per game average, a total that is second on the Stout all-time single season list. Lyons scored 1,050 career points, currently ranking him 14th.

Lyons took his leadership, team concept and winning attitude into the business world, working as a general manager for McDonalds Corp, an area associate for STA Corp., vice president of operations from Applebees Franchise, and vice president of operations for Fairmount Capital Group, a position he currently holds while residing in Ohio.

Mike Beaupre

When Mike Beaupre looks back at his gymnastics career, the year 1984 stands out. As a member of the Blue Devils' men's gymnastics team, Beaupre saw both individual and team success.

As a team, the Blue Devils won the NAIA Gymnastics Championships, the only Stout team to ever win a national championship. As a team, the Blue Devils qualified to the NCAA Division II Gymnastics Championships, placing sixth.

After finishing second at the NAIA championships on the pommel horse to his teammate Paul Speltz, Beaupre kicked his routine into high gear and won the NCAA Division II pommel horse championship, qualifying to the NCAA Division I championships where he placed 65th. But the thrill of competing at the highest levels in an Olympic year left an imprint on Beaupre.

Beaupre competed against six members of the Olympic team at Pauly Pavilion at UCLA, the same location the Olympics would be held later that summer.

Larkin receives distinguished service athletic award

Since coming to Menomonie and Stout in the mid-1960s, Joe Larkin has had an impact on the UW-Stout and surrounding community athletic programs. For his efforts, Larkin received the UW-Stout Distinguished Service Athletic Award. The award was presented at the UW-Stout Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony, Saturday, Oct. 28.

As the university's dean of students, Larkin was overseer of the UW-Stout Physical Education and Athletic programs for six years. Under his watch, the university returned men's hockey to varsity status and began work on the development of the Recreation Complex where he was a prime player in fund raising to negotiate contributions with numerous individuals,



Larkin

organizations and businesses. Larkin also helped to initiate the exclusive pouring rights for beverages on campus. Larkin began his first season as an administrative manager for the Blue Devil hockey team.

As the dean of students, Larkin was responsible for discipline of students and staff alike. Larkin was known as a stern taskmaster, but fair, as he handled disciplinary procedures.

Larkin played an important part in the establishment of artificial ice at the Dunn County Rec Park, working to raise funds to install the system in the late 1980s.

An active community member, Larkin has served 20-plus years as the chair of the Menomonie Board of Zoning Appeals.

Retired last year, Larkin is married to Linda, a retired Menomonie school teacher, and the couple have two sons, Jerry and Kevin.

During his UW-Stout career from 1979-84, Beaupre was a three-time NAIA All-American, a two-time NCAA Division II All-America and twice qualified to the NCAA Division I Gymnastic Championships.

Beaupre continued to work with the gymnastics program after leaving UW-Stout. Beaupre received his masters from UW-Stout in 1987, and returned to Menomonie in 1997 as the executive director of Indianhead Enterprises. Beaupre and his wife, Cindy, have four children.

John Zuerlein

John Zuerlein can only be termed as Stout's "Mr. Gymnastics." After coming to Stout as a student in 1959 from Lincoln, Neb., Zuerlein played a year of football. Zuerlein left Stout for two years, but returned in 1962 and turned his attention to gymnastics, starting the Blue Devil men's program while still a student and quickly turning the program into a national contender.

Zuerlein graduated from Stout in 1966, then joined the physical education and athletics department where he coached the men's program from its inception until 1983, and took over the women's program in 1979. Zuerlein was twice named the national coach of the year, and the conference coach of the year in 1992. Zuerlein coached seven individual national champions, 15 NAIA and five NCAA men's All-Americans, four NCGA women's All-Americans and numerous all-conference gymnasts. Zuerlein's men's team placed in the top four of the NAIA every year from 1970-83, and twice placed fifth in the NCAA Division II.

An avid outdoorsman, Zuerlein parlayed his interest into the classroom, establishing classes in map and compass, backpacking, canoeing and other similar classes. It was on one of Zuerlein's outdoor adventures with a class that Zuerlein would deal with his biggest setback. Zuerlein was severely injured in a fall in a remote part of a national forest. After his students evacuated him, Zuerlein was hospitalized, then required additional physical therapy.

Zuerlein prevailed and returned to both the classroom and the gymnasium. Zuerlein retired from coaching gymnastics in 1994 and from the classroom this past spring. He intends to enjoy the outdoors and his grandchildren.

Blue Devils Online



<http://www.uwstout.edu/athletics/>

Alumni can access information about UW-Stout athletics from anywhere in the world any time of day through the Internet. The Blue Devil Athletics home page includes schedules, preseason previews, coaches' biographies, history, records and season review stories. Also available are team rosters, feature stories, Hall of Fame, and up-to-date scores.

Blue Devils This Week is a weekly newsletter for fans of UW-Stout's athletic programs. It features a wrap-up of the previous week's competition and a brief look at the upcoming week in Blue Devil Athletics. The newsletter is posted on the athletics Web site each Monday afternoon, sometimes earlier, sometimes later.

Fans may read the newsletter in a variety of different formats. The Web version of the includes links to statistics, each sport's home page, and may also include some outside links such as the conference Web site for added details. A portable document format (PDF) version, viewable in Adobe Acrobat Reader, is available for more efficient printing. Readers may also subscribe to an e-mail version by sending a request (*Add to BDTW List*) to: pittl@uwstout.edu.



2000–2001 seasons shaping up to be memorable

Recent memory fails to turn up a sports season that proved to be as exciting as the 2000-01 season as UW-Stout took to the field, court and any other playing surface.

Football

No one, absolutely no one, predicted what the Blue Devil football team accomplished in 2000 — the first conference championship since 1965 and the first-ever NCAA Division III playoff berth.

But the season didn't start off so promising. The team picked to finish no better than seventh suffered a big blow when projected starting tailback Aaron Johnson was severely injured in a hit-and-run accident the day before training camp was to open. The much liked Johnson — he was named the team's most valuable player even though he never suited up — survived the ordeal and proved to be the inspiration as UW-Stout climbed to the top.

A defense that ranked in the top in the country shut down many an offense, holding five teams to negative rushing yardage, and a rejuvenated offensive running attack carried UW-Stout to a perfect 7-0 conference record and a best-ever 10-1 overall record, their only loss coming in the first round of the NCAA playoffs. Freshman tailback **Luke Bundgaard** (*Weyerhaeuser*) set a school rushing record by running for 1,336 yards.

Defensive lineman **Jeff Hazuga** (*Sr., Thorp*) led 15 UW-Stout players named to the all-conference team, was named the conference player of the year, and was named to five All-America teams after recording 14.5 sacks.

Punter **Kevin McCulley** (*Sr., Fond du Lac*) was named to four All-America teams, and offensive lineman **Jeff Hutter** (*Beldenville*), and defensive back **Tony Beckham** (*Jr., Ocala, Fla.*) were named All-America. Ed Meierkort was the conference and regional coach of the year.

Women's Soccer

Becky Howard (*Sr., Wauwatosa*) led the Blue Devils charge on the soccer pitch, and was only the second Blue Devil named to the all-region squad. Howard, a two time all-conference pick, leaves the program as the all-time assists leader and was second in scoring. The Blue Devils posted a best-ever 5-3 conference record and were 8-9 overall.

Volleyball

The Blue Devils put together their best overall finish since the 1994 season as they posted a 24-12 overall record. **Brooke Palmer** (*Jr., Mantorville, Minn.*) was a first team all-conference pick and led the team in kills with 477. **Rachel Eidet** (*Jr., North Mankato, Minn.*) was an honorable mention choice and was the team's leader with 460 digs.

Men's Cross Country

Dave Huber (*So., Mendota Heights, Minn.*) made his first trip to the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships after placing 17th at the regional meet. Huber placed 70th of 215 runners at the national meet.

Women's Tennis

Tammy Petcher (*Fr., Marshfield*) and **Rachael Weber** (*Fr., Holmen*) placed third in the WIAC Championships at No. 2 doubles. Petcher was fifth at No. 4 singles.

Women's Cross Country

Hired only a week before the Blue Devils opened training camp, Joe Harlan laid the groundwork for his program. UW-Stout place in the top half of the regional championship and was sixth at the WIAC Championships.

Men's Basketball

First year coach Eddie Andrist brought a new look to the Blue Devils. Emphasizing defense, Stout consistently played all of the conference teams on an even keel, but came up short as they earned the No. 8 seed in the conference tournament.

But UW-Stout (14-12, 6-10) showed they had promise. After not winning a single road conference game, the Blue Devils took to the road to face No. 1 seed Whitewater and blew the Wahawks off their own court, 90-49, in the most lopsided playoff game ever.

Aaron Vachowiak (*Sr., Wausau*) leaves the program with the career record for shooting percentage, connecting on 60.8 percent of his shots. Vachowiak was a first team all-conference pick and **Pat Von Feldt** (*Sr., Stevens Point*) was an honorable mention choice.

Women's Basketball

A traditionally strong women's program did not disappoint, even though the roster was more than 50 percent freshmen. UW-Stout placed third in the league with an 11-5 conference record and posted an 18-7 overall record, their best finish in four seasons despite losing a starting point guard and post player before the season began and another point guard seven games into the season.

Amy Zelinger (*Jr., Racine*) led the team, making the move to the point spot, and was named to the All-WIAC team and the WIAC all-defensive team after leading the league in steals. **Tanya Halbach** (*So., Janesville*) was an honorable mention choice.

Men's Ice Hockey

The Blue Devils enjoyed a renaissance of sorts, putting up their best overall record ever (15-11-1) and finished fourth in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association to earn the right to host their first-ever NCHA playoff series.

Coach Terry Watkins, a Stout graduate and former Blue Devil player, earned his second WIAC coach of the year award. Eight players were named to the WIAC honorable mention squad, and defenseman **Cullen Flaherty** (*So., Duluth, Minn.*) and goalie **Justin Wiskie** (*So., Janesville*) were named to the NCHA honorable mention team.

Gymnastics

The Blue Devils spent the entire season breaking both team and individual records.

Tasha Pasch (*So., Northfield, Minn.*) captured her second consecutive WIAC all-around title, and coach Jeff Richards was named conference coach of the year for the second year. **Katie Hanson** (*So., Duluth, Minn.*) and **Erika Opoien** (*So., Superior*) were also named all-conference.

Hanson and Pasch were named All-America all-arounders, with Pasch finishing eighth and Hanson 10th. Hanson, Pasch and Brenna Jones (*Sr., St. Paul, Minn.*) were also All-America on individual events, Hanson placing fifth on the bars, Pasch fifth on the vault and Jones sixth on the floor.



① Luke Bundgaard set a new single season rushing record of 1,366 yards for the conference champion Blue Devil football team. ② First team All-American Jeff Hazuga prepares to level the St. John's quarterback in the Blue Devils' first-ever NCAA Division III playoff game. ③ Becky Howard was named to the All-Region soccer team after leading the Blue Devils in scoring. ④ Middle hitter Brooke Palmer was named to the all-conference volleyball team for the second consecutive year. ⑤ Dave Huber advanced to the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships where he placed 70th of 215 runners. ⑥ Megan Schwanbeck was a foundation to a building program for the Blue Devil tennis team. ⑦ Ellen Everson was one of many Blue Devil cross country runners that stepped up her game under first year coach Joe Harlan. ⑧ Aaron Vachowiak leaves the Blue Devil basketball program as the all-time field goal shooting percentage leader. ⑨ After early season injuries took their toll on the Blue Devil women's basketball roster, Amy Zelinger moved to the point guard spot where she was named all-conference. ⑩ Cullen Flaherty was one of the many reasons the Blue Devil hockey team had a record setting season. Flaherty was named all-conference in two leagues. ⑪ Katie Hanson earned All-America honors on the uneven bars and as an all-arounder. ⑫ Tasha Pasch earned All-America honors on the vault and as an all-arounder.

